



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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August 21, 2014

TO: Each Supervisor
FROM: *Robin Kay for*
Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director
SUBJECT: **CLOSURE OF THE WESTSIDE URGENT CARE CENTER**

In 2006, the Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Mental Health (DMH) began delivering mental health urgent care services to residents of LAC through a contract with Exodus Recovery, Inc. (Exodus). Exodus has operated the Westside Mental Health Urgent Care Center (UCC) in a small building on the campus of Brotman Medical Center since that time. The facility provides a much-needed and highly utilized service. In Fiscal Year 2013-14 there were 5,815 admissions with 1,496 individuals brought in on involuntary holds.

Unfortunately, on August 5, 2014, Luana Murphy, the CEO of Exodus, was informed by Southern California Healthcare System, Inc., that the hospital would be undergoing major renovations of the campus. As a result, Exodus was informed that they would be forced to vacate the premises. On August 10, Exodus provided formal notification to DMH of their need to close this program by the end of August 2014.

LACDMH is fully committed to restoring mental health urgent care services on the Westside of Los Angeles County. We are working with Ms. Murphy to support identification of a new site. In the interim, we have arranged to transfer staff providing substance use disorder services from the Westside UCC to the UCC that operates on the Eastside, which did not have this capacity. In addition, the concurrent opening of the MLK Mental Health Urgent Care Center is expected to somewhat mitigate the loss of the facility on the Westside.

We will provide you with information on our efforts to reopen the Westside Mental Health UCC as we progress. In the interim, you may contact me or Dr. Robin Kay with questions. Dr. Kay can be reached at (213) 738-4108.

MJS:RK:sem

c: Chief Executive Office
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